(15)

Note

ON THE MYSORE TRIBUTE PRESENTED BY SIR MIRZA M. ISMAIL, DEWAN OF MYSORE, TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE, ON 22ND NOVEMBER 1932.

The State pays annually to the Government of India a tribute of Rs. 24½ lakhs. The Indian States Enquiry Committee (Financial) has recommended, (A) that a sum of Rs. 7·18 lakhs should be remitted immediately, being the estimated excess over five per cent of the revenue of the State, and (B) that the balance of the tribute, *viz.*, Rs. 17·32 lakhs, should be remitted *pari passu* with the Provincial contributions, subject to an outside limit of 20 years. But against this amount is to be set off a sum of Rs. 5·58 lakhs, which is said to represent the value of the postal immunity enjoyed by the State in respect of its official correspondence which is carried free of charge within the State. It is requested that proposal (A), which was intended by the Committee as a measure of immediate relief should be given effect to without delay. The Government of India have been approached with an official representation in the matter. If the calculations are made on the basis of the present reduced revenue of the State, the amount to be remitted may be somewhat higher than the estimated figure given in the Report. This is, however, a point of detail.

As regards (B), it seems unfair that the postal privilege obtained by the State as a result of a business arrangement with the Government of India should be set off against payments arising from the political relations of the State with the Government. If, however, the Secretary of State agrees with the recommendations made by the Committee, the State will raise no objection and will be prepared to surrender the privilege for an equivalent in the annual tribute.

If these two points, which seem to present no practical difficulty, are settled in the manner suggested above, the Mysore tribute will stand reduced to about Rs. 11 or 12 lakhs. It is our earnest representation to the Secretary of State that the remission of this amount need not be made to depend upon, or proceed *pari passu* with, the reduction of Provincial contributions. These contributions, as the Committee itself has pointed out, are not in *pari materia* with the tributes paid by the States.

The Committee estimates that the immediate relief to be given to all the States concerned on the five per cent principle would be about Rs. 12 lakhs and that the eventual remission of the remaining tributes would cost the Government about Rs. 59 lakhs. But, I would point out that more than Rs. 29 lakhs out of the latter amount will not have to be actually remitted unless immunities or privileges of corresponding value are surrendered by the States concerned, so that the net actual cost to the Government of India entailed by the abolition of tributes, as recommended by the Committee, would not exceed Rs. 30 lakhs in all.

MIRZA M. ISMAIL.